

REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claim 10 and amended claims 11, 16, and 19 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.33(b), without prejudice to their re-introduction in a continuation application.

In the Examiner's Answer mailed June 16, 2005, the Examiner states that claims 14, 15, 21, and 22 are allowed, and claims 3, 11-13, and 16-20 are objected to as based on rejected patent claims and would be allowed if written in independent form. Applicants contacted the Examiner on October 20, 2005 to verify foregoing status of the claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the claim status verification.

In order to expedite allowance of this application, Applicants have written claim 11 in independent form and respectfully submit that claim 11 is in condition for allowance. As claims 12 and 13 depend from and further limit claim 11, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12 and 13 are in condition for allowance. Additionally, Applicants have written claim 16 in independent form and respectfully submit that claim 16 is in condition for allowance. As claims 17, 18, 19, and 20 depend from claim 16 or an intervening dependent claim, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17, 18, 19, and 20 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Charles W. Calkins at 336.607.7315 or J. Clinton Wimbish at 336.607.7399 to discuss any matter related to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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